Alef-Thau

1

JODOROWSKY

ARNO

DIAMANTHA !

comicArt

The Small Earthworm

by Arno and Jodorowsky

THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME FOR THE TWO TURTLE DOVES TO TAKE OFF.
YARK... YARK.
THE LITTLE VILLAGE CONTINUED TO GLOW WITH CONTENTMENT.
AND AS TRADITION REQUIRES DURING THE SEVENTH MONTH OF PREGNANCY, I UNITE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE GREAT GEAH.
VIVAAAA
AND NOW, MY CHILDREN... FLEE. GO HIDE IN THE MOUNTAINS BEFORE...

HOURRREEEEE
Aiii
OVER THERE... THEY'RE OVER THERE! THE NEWLYWEDS!
PUSH HARDER!
HAHAHA! THIS WAY...
NAD!
LET'S GO!
COME ON! THIS WAY! QUICKLY!
NO!
LET GO OF HER! SHE'S PREGNANT!
THE THIRST OF NER RHAMNUS IS THE LAW OF THIS WORLD. SOON THERE WILL BE NARY A CHANCE TO SEE A LIVING BLOSSOM ON MU-DHARA!
3

HAHA! WE'LL BE FAMOUS!
YEAH! AND THE YOUNG COUPLE SEEMS AS STRONG AS WE COULD POSSIBLY HOPE FOR.
MUCH LATER, ON THE WAY BACK...
OH, NAD... I'M AFRAID.
SHUT UP, YOU TWO!
MMMMH
SUDDENLY...
UAAAGR
?!
CAREFUL, EVERYONE! THIS FOREST IS A TRICKY PLACE!
YEAH! AND IT'S AS DARK AS A MOUFFRE'S ASS!
THE... THE PECKHOLT!
QUICKLY!
4

HOLY BLACK ENTRAILS! THOSE PECKS MUST BE CONDEMNED!
EAT THIS, MONSTERS!
KHAROO
HIIIRK
THIS WAY, QUICKLY!
HAHAHAHA...
WHAT A STAMPEDE! AND NOW...
LET'S LEAVE THIS WAY AS FAST AS WE CAN! THIS PLACE STINKS!
AND AT NIGHTFALL...
WAHOO! BACK AT THE FOLD!
UNION
31A
2
5

HOWEVER, IN THE SHIP...
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY LONGER! DRINKING THE LIFE OF ALL OF THESE BEINGS IS MAKING ME SICK. UGH.. THEIR IRON, FIRE, AND BLOOD!... THIS IS SHEER HELL!
LET'S GO, DAUGHTER
I AM NOT YOUR DAUGHTER. YOU KILLED MY REAL PARENTS WITH YOUR DIRTY, BRUTE HANDS!
LITTLE BITCH! I'LL SMACK YOUR HEAD AGAINST THE WALLS OF THIS ACCURSED VESSEL!
CALM DOWN, NER...
YOU KNOW WELL ENOUGH THAT SHE'S MORE USEFUL TO US ALIVE THAN DEAD.
YEAH, I GUESS SO.
MASTER, I HAVE BROUGHT THE LAST CHARGE FOR YOUR PERUSAL.
PERFECT.
AND AT THAT MOMENT, SOMEWHERE ELSE ON THE VESSEL...
AND MIRRA? WHAT SHALL WE DO?
HEY, CHILDREN, LISTEN UP! ONCE YOU'VE PLACED THE ELECTRODE CAP ON YOUR HEAD, YOU WILL STEP IN THE HOLE DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU.
GET READY TO LIVE THE LAST MOMENTS OF YOUR YOUTH.
6

BON VOYAGE! HAHAHA...!
AND WHILE THE GENERATORS ARE TURNED UP HIGH, NO ONE TAKES NOTE OF LITTLE MIRRA WHO IS SLOWLY MOVING TOWARDS HIS MASTER.
AAAA
EH? WHAT IS THIS BEAST?
WHERE?
THERE! SHE MUSTN'T DRINK THE VITAL FLUID!
WAIT, YOU'LL SEE!
M... MIRRA!
KHABOOO
A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
ONE MORE GLASS, ASTRAL?
AND YOU, LITTLE ONE, YOU DON'T WANT A LITTLE GLASS OF YOUTH?
GO HOME!
IF YOU CAN!
NAD... THE BABY.
YES, I KNOW.
7

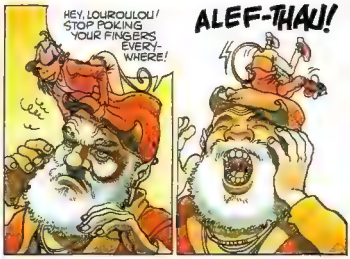
A LITTLE LATER IN THE FOREST...
ADA! THERE... LOOK!
MIRRA!
SHE IS ENORMOUS! BUT HOW?
SHE WAS TRYING TO SAVE ME! SHE MUST'VE SWALLOWED SOME OF THE VITAL FLUID WITHOUT KNOWING IT!
NAD! THIS TIME IT'S REAL!
ADA!
GO ON, PUSH! I HAVE IT! GO ON! OH, NO..
?!
NO!
ADA DIED FOR YOU, MY SON. YOU, WHO ARE BORN WITH NO ARMS OR LEGS. SUCH A SMALL EARTH-WORM!

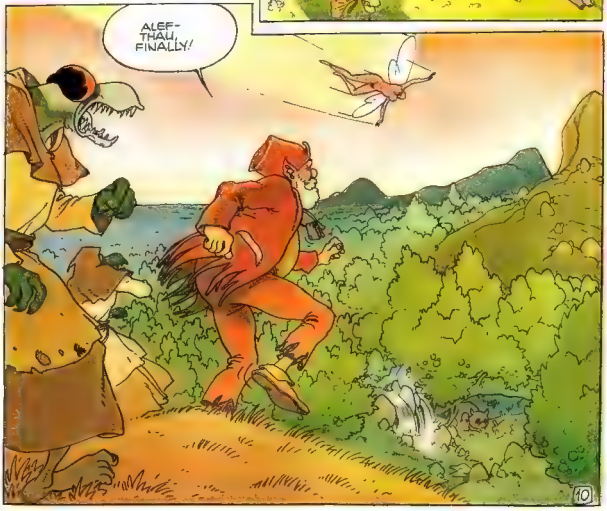
TO BE CONTINUED...

The Second Song

The Hunt for Louth
by Arno and Jodorowsky

IN LAST MONTH'S "THE SMALL EARTHWORM," WE READ THAT NAD AND ADA, THE YOUNG NEWLYWEDS, WERE DRAINED OF THEIR YOUTH BY THE WICKED NER RHAMMUS. ADA, PREGNANT AT THE TIME, DIED WHILE GIVING BIRTH TO THEIR DEFORMED CHILD.





I DREAMT THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN! HOG! IT'S HOG!
?
OH! A LOUROULOU! A LOUROULOU! IS IT FOR ME?
YES, ALEF. THAT'S FOR YOUR BIRTH-DAY!
HE PLAYS MY FAVORITE SONGS! THANKS, HOG!
A LITTLE LATER ON..
VLOUF
WHAT IS IT, HOG? DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY WANT TO KILL US?
I DON'T KNOW. WHAT-EVER IT IS, IT'S STARTED ON THE OTHER SIDE!
11

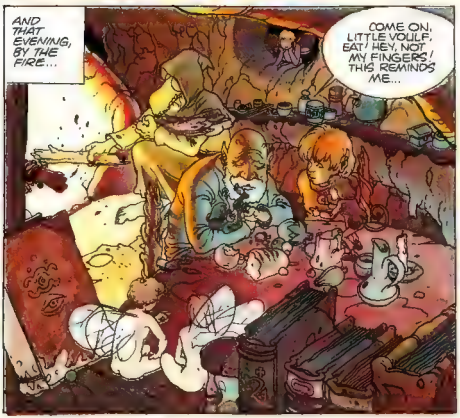
OVER THERE! LOOK!
EEAAAAH
EEAAK
NOTHING CHANGES, DON'T YOU KNOW?
UHHHHHH...
HIIIIIRK
AAARH
IT'S OVER.

LET'S GO SEE WHERE THEY CAME FROM!

HMMM, ANOTHER CONVOY FILLED WITH YOUNG DHARIENS DON'T THEY EVER LEARN?
HMMP?

A BABY! IT'S A BABY'S CRY, I'M SURE OF IT!
BE CAREFUL!
HMMP

HEY! LOOK HOW ADORABLE HE IS! IT IS A HE, ISN'T IT? A BABY VOULF!


AND THAT EVENING, BY THE FIRE...
COME ON, LITTLE VOULF, EAT! HEY, NOT MY FINGERS! THIS REMINDS ME...

"...OF WHEN I FOUND YOU, ALEF-THAU! IT WAS ON A WINDY EVENING, AND I WAS OFF LOOKING FOR SOME RARE PLANTS. I LOST MY WAY ALONG ORAVI, WHEN I CAME UPON ONE OF THOSE ANIMALS THE DHARIENS TAME... BUT THIS ONE WAS ENORMOUS!
13

"INTRIGUED, I APPROACHED THE ANIMAL, WHO HAD APPARENTLY SUFFERED QUITE A BIT, AND SEEMED EXHAUSTED. AND WHEN I GOT CLOSER, WHAT DO YOU THINK I FOUND MUFFLED BETWEEN HIS PAWS? A BABY!"

"A BABY WITHOUT ARMS AND LEGS? HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?, I ASKED MYSELF. WHAT WAS IN THIS CHILD'S FUTURE? COMPLETELY DISORIENTED, I PULLED OUT MY MAGICAL BONES - YOU KNOW I FANCY MYSELF A BIT OF A SAYER OF SOOTH, SO TO SPEAK!

"AND WHO DID I SEE? THE BABY, ALL GROWN UP, WITH ARMS AND LEGS, AND LEADING THE D'HARIENS TOWARDS LIBERTY AND AT HIS SIDE, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN I THINK I'VE EVER SEEN. DURING MY RETURN HOME, I NAMED THE CHILD ALEF-THAU."

THERE, NOW YOU KNOW YOUR HISTORY AND YOU KNOW WHAT IS IN STORE FOR YOU, TOO.

ME? BUT HOW?

A FEW YEARS LATER...
TUM
TUTUM
TUM
TUTUM
TUTUM
THIS TIME WE'VE GOT HIM!
TUM TUTUM
TUM
TUM TUTUM
TUM
TUM TUTUM
TUM
TUM
TUTUM
A... A LOUTH!
WE HAVE TO WARN HOG!
HE'S GOING STRAIGHT INTO THE EN-CLOSURE!
15

THE BEAMS, QUICKLY!
HIIAARRR..
Z/Z ULP!
HARK
WHAK
THERE, MASTER WE SHOULD BE SAFE FOR THE TIME BEING!
YEAH? TAKE THIS SPEAR AND GET UP! THE LOUTH IS GETTING IMPATIENT!
LITTLE GIRL, AREN'T YOU AFRAID?
TYPICAL MAN! OF COURSE NOT! I'LL KILL IF I HAVE TO!
?!
TWO ARE STRONGER THAN ONE!
GO!
16

GO FOR THE TWO EYES UNDER HIS CHEST!
RHAMNUS!
ONE.. TWO.. THREE
KHAAPP
...NOW!
RHAMNUS!
RHAMNUS!
THAT'S IT!
THE LOUTH IS DEAD!
THAT'S IT!

DO YOU SEE ANYTHING, ALEF-THAU?
MEE UHHH...
HOG, COME SEE THIS GIRL!
YES! IT'S HER!
YOU SEE? HE DIDN'T DO SO BAD AFTER ALL.
?!
YOU!
ENOUGH!
SHEAK
PSSST!
HAH!
GRUMBLE
?!..
WHO ARE YOU?
I... I WAS BEGINNING NOT TO BELIEVE IT ANYMORE. HOG HAS TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.
LISTEN! WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME! YOU MUST HELP ME!
LOOK AT ME! I HAVE NO ARMS OR LEGS! HOW CAN I BE OF ANY HELP?
THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM. I CAN GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED! BUT FOR IT, YOU HAVE TO CONQUER THE SHIP!
WHAT SHIP?
THE SHIP OF MY PARENTS! IT HAS BECOME THE DEN OF NER-RHAMNUS! ON BOARD, YOU WILL FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED IN ORDER TO BUILD ARMS AND LEGS!
DIAMANTE!
BUT...
?!?
SEE YOU SOON, DIAMANTE!
THEY'RE COMING! LEAVE QUICKLY!
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I WILL CONQUER NER-RHAMNUS! I SWEAR IT!
18

TO BE CONTINUED...

The Third Song

God's Tower

by Arno and Jodorowsky

NO! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE IT!
IT'S NO LONGER A QUESTION OF YOUR PHYSICAL ABILITY. IT'S IN YOUR HEART, ALEF-THAU, IN YOUR HEART!
IF YOU LOOK DEEP ENOUGH, YOU WILL FIND SELF-PERCEPTION IN YOUR HEART. LEARN TO KNOW IT. IT IS YOUR ETHEREAL BODY. AND NOW...
...CONCENTRATE!
19

THERE! YOU'VE SUCCEEDED! IT'S FAN-TASTIC!
YES! NOW I KNOW I CAN DO IT! I EXTERNALIZE MY ARMS AND LEGS. BUT WHAT GOOD WILL IT BE IF I CAN'T EVEN HOLD A KNIFE!
I MUST FIGHT AN ARMY AND I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO!
EXCUSE ME, MASTER HOGL?...
WHAT?
...YES, THE HISTORY OF THE VOULPS WHO HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED AND HUNTED UNTIL OUR INTELLIGENCE WAS HELD CAPTIVE IN THE GOD TOWER. LEGEND TELLS US THAT A GNOME...
EXCUSE ME, BUT MAYBE WE HAVE A SOLUTION. SOON OUR PEOPLE IN THE VALLEY OF THE CRAUE WILL MEET. THEY WILL BE LED BY SHARGATH THE GREAT. AND HE SHALL TELL US THE HISTORY...
...WILL BRING BACK THE EYE OF GOLD WHICH IS THE KEY TO OUR INTELLIGENCE. ALEF-THAU MUST SUCCEED IN ORDER FOR US TO REGAIN OUR DIGNITY. THANK YOU FOR LISTENING, MASTER.
WE SHALL PRAY FOR ALEF-THAU.
20

AND THE FOLLOWING DAY...
YOU SEE, ALEF-THAU, THIS IS WHERE THE VOULF DOMAIN BEGINS.
LET'S GO FOR A SWIM, SHALL WE?
WE'LL JUMP!
ARGGGG! HELP ME!
WAIT! HE IS OUR ENVOY!
DON'T BE AFRAID!
ARE YOU OKAY, LOUROU-LOU?
?!
21

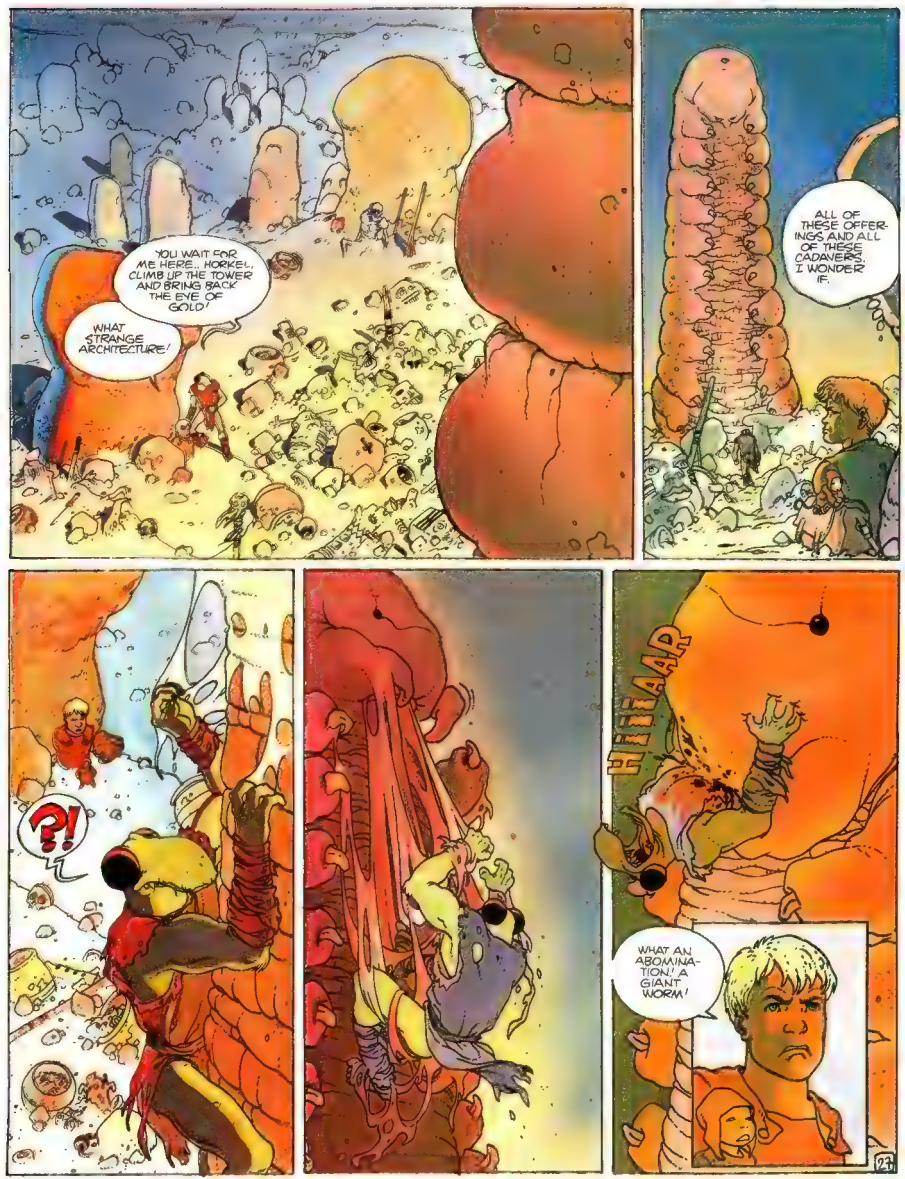
HOWEVER, IN THE DEN OF HER RHAMUS.
PERHAPS YOU HOPE TO RETURN TO YOUR NATIVE SATELLITE ONE DAY—HAHAHA!
WHO KNOWS?
YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT THE INTERNAL FUNCTIONING OF THIS VESSEL CAN'T BE DONE WITHOUT YOU.
AND YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT I AM GOING TO LET YOU GO?
WHATEVER YOU SAY... BUT I STILL AM SURE THAT SOMEONE WILL COME AND RESCUE ME.
MEANWHILE, HOGL FOLLOWS THE PROGRESS OF ALEE-THAU, THANKS TO HIS MAGICAL BONES.
THAT'S IT! HE SUCCEEDED! HE HAS JUST PASSED THE TEST OF FIRE WITHOUT BEING AFRAID. HE IS GOING TO BE RECEIVED BY SHARGATH.
COME CLOSER, LITTLE STICK OF A MAN.
22

YOU ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE IN SEARCH OF THE EYE OF GOLD. THE VOYAGE WILL BE LONG AND DANGEROUS.
BUT, YOU WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MY THREE BRAVEST VOULPS.
THE OLD SHARGATH HAD BEEN TRUTHFUL. AS THE DAYS WENT BY, THE TREK GREW MORE ARDUOUS.
EVERYTHING SEEMED TO BE AGAINST THEM AND ONE NIGHT, WITHOUT ANY WARNING, THE ROOTS BEGAN TO MOVE.

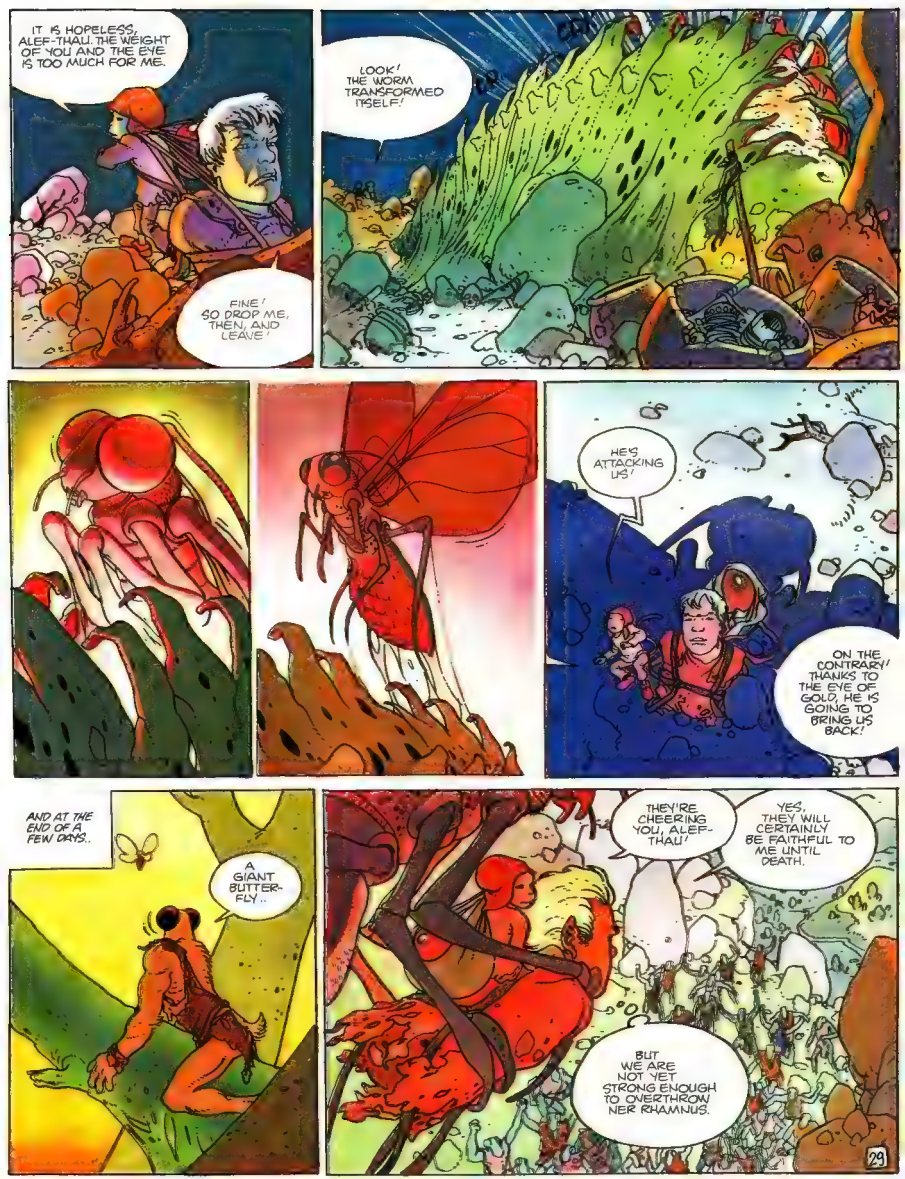
THE AXE, QUICKLY!
KHRK
!!...
ALEF-THAU!
TH-THIS FOREST IS GOING TO SWALLOW US UP!
NO, NO!
I'M COMING!
CHTOK
HIIIS...AR
THE VOULE HAD SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR ALEF-THAU. IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT THE FOREST SEEMED TO CALM DOWN. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PEACE, THE SURVIVORS FLED.
LET'S GET OUT!
AND ON THROUGH AN EN-TANGLED MAZE..
OVER THERE...! LIGHT! WE'RE SAVED!
24

THE VOLCANO! IT'S OUR LAST OBSTACLE ACCORDING TO SHARGATH!
HALFWAY UP, THERE IS A ROAD THAT WILL GET US BACK!
ANOTHER STONE BRIDGE! WE MUST TAKE IT TO GET PAST THE VOLCANO!
KRRRR
?
IT'S ERUPTING!
UNNH!
25

CATCH HIM!
iiiiRR..
KHRAAM
LOOK!
THE TOWER OF GOD!
YEAH, BUT LET'S NOT HANG AROUND!
26


YOU WAIT FOR ME HERE, HORKE! CLIMB UP THE TOWER AND BRING BACK THE EYE OF GOLD!
WHAT STRANGE ARCHITECTURE!
ALL OF THESE OFFERINGS AND ALL OF THESE CADAVERS, I WONDER IF...
?!
HIIIAAR
WHAT AN ABOMINATION! A GIANT WORM!

POOR LITTLE CREATURE I AM GIVING YOU ONE CHANCE TO ESCAPE DEATH. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TO ANSWER ONE SIMPLE QUESTION:
AND SHOULDN'T I EAT YOU?
!?
YOU CAN'T EAT ME IF I AM YOU.
AND IN A COMBINED BURST OF CONCENTRATION AND ENERGY, ALEF-THAU IS ABLE TO FORM AN ECTOPLASMIC BEING...
...WHICH TAKES THE FORM OF A MONSTER! THE TOWER OF GOD, CONFRONTED WITH THIS MIRROR IMAGE, COLLAPSED.
SKRDD
ALEF-THAU, LOOK!
THE EYE OF GOLD!
BEFORE ALL THE GODS, I HAVE CONQUERED!
28


IT IS HOPELESS, ALEF-THAU. THE WEIGHT OF YOU AND THE EYE IS TOO MUCH FOR ME.
FINE! SO DROP ME, THEN, AND LEAVE!
LOOK! THE WORM TRANSFORMED ITSELF!
HE'S ATTACKING US!
ON THE CONTRARY! THANKS TO THE EYE OF GOLD, HE IS GOING TO BRING US BACK!
AND AT THE END OF A FEW DAYS..
A GIANT BUTTER-FLY..
THEY'RE CHEERING YOU, ALEF-THAU!
YES, THEY WILL CERTAINLY BE FAITHFUL TO ME UNTIL DEATH.
BUT WE ARE NOT YET STRONG ENOUGH TO OVERTHROW NER RHAMNUS.
29

TO BE CONTINUED.

The Fourth Song

The Fright of the Great Spectacle

by Arno and Jodorowsky

AND AT THAT VERY SAME MOMENT IN THE SHIP...
GO AHEAD, NER
NER, MY DEAR
HOLD ON!
HAVE A GOOD TIME.. HA.. HA.. HA..
AS FOR ME, WELL... I'M LEAVING YOU.... HA... HA... HA.
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE. SOMEONE IS CALLING ME.
TAD TAD
ASTRAL?!?
WHAT WILL I DO WITH ALL THIS CARGO?
HA HA.
I HOPE HE DOESN'T SEE ME!
PHEW! I DON'T THINK ANY ONE SAW ME
NOW I'LL WAIT.
32

KIROPTERA!
THERE'S ASTRAL!
FLAP FLAP
MY BROTHERS!
HURRY UP, MY BROTHERS. THEY'RE ALL DRUNK. THE CARGO IS OURS!
HOWEVER
THERE THEY ARE!
BZMMMMMMMM..
33

HMMM
FOP
PLOUF.
NO! DON'T LEAVE ME! TAKE ME WITH YOU!
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME THING. YOU COME, YOU WATCH ME, AND THEN YOU LEAVE WHYZZZ
WHERE ARE WE, BROTHERS?
IT'S THE NINTH AND LAST BARREL... NOTHING'S LEFT.
34

?!
HUH?
THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF THEM!
YES! THEY'RE ATTACKING!
AAAAAAAAHH
THEY ARE...
THE VOULPS AND THE OLD ONES!
AN ATTACK?
WHO? WHAT?
IT'S... IT'S INCREDIBLE! THEY'RE EVERYWHERE! WE'VE BEEN HAD!
WHAT?
QUICK! WHERE'S ASTRAL?
MASTER?
I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM EVERYWHERE, BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED!
THE TRAITOR!
WITHOUT HIM, WE'RE LOST!
THE OLD MEN? HA!
GATHER THE OTHER PECKHOLTS AT ONCE!
ENOUGH, YOU BAND OF COWARDS! WE HAVE THE POWER AND THE PECKHOLTS!
JODO. arno.
35

AYAAAAHH..

WE'VE GOT HIM! THE SHIP IS OURS!
HE DID IT!
YAAH!
HUH?
?
?!
?
FIRE!
37

TAKE COVER!
ALEF THAU! I WE'RE NOT ADVANCING! IT'S THE DISINTEGRANTS! WHAT IS...
HOG! WE HAVE TO WARN HIM!
GIVE THE SIGNAL, LOUROULOU!
THE SIGNAL!
KHABOO
BOO
YOU HAVE CLAY PELLETS, BUT DON'T BE AFRAID TO USE YOUR PICKS!
MY EYES! I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING!
WHAT THE.
THE PECKHOLTS! THOSE DAMNED BEASTS ARE...

RAMNUSR
HEY! NO MORE PECKHOLTS! BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET! I STILL HAVE THE EIGHT LEGS!
DON'T LEAVE ME... I'VE BEEN BLINDED!
!!?!..
CHTOK CHTOUK
GHH
ALEF-THAU!
THE ROAD IS CLEAR!
THE ELFS HAVE SUCCEEDED!
MY FRIENDS!
I'M GOING TO SHOW THEM HOW ONE GETS RID OF VERMIN! YAAAH! FORWARD!
39

LOOK! OVER THERE!
THERE ARE THE EIGHT LEGS! THEY ARE GOING TO CRUSH US!
HUH? WHAT? QUICKLY!
GET ME DOWN! SPREAD OUT! THERE MUST BE SOME WAY..
YAAAAAAH
USING HIS MAGICAL POWERS, ALEF-THAU ENTERS A TRANCE AND DEVELOPS AN ECTOPLASM...
DID YOU SEE THAT? IT'S CRAZY!
I'M SCARED!
INCREDIBLE! IT LOOKS LIKE FLAMES!
WHAT IS THIS... WITCHCRAFT?
IN AN INSTANT THE ECTOPLASM HAD SPREAD, FORMING AN INDAN-DESCENT TIDAL WAVE AND CAUSING PANIC AND DISORDER.
YIPPEE! THEY'RE FLEEING!
YES... HA, HA IT'S COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS!
ALEF-THAU IS A GREAT WIZARD!
40

AND IN THE SHIP
THEY'RE GOING!
KLUN KLUN KLUN KLUN
THE COMMAND ROOM IS JUST OVER THERE. IF I CAN GET IN IT..
AND JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
AAIIIEE!
YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO GO THIS WAY!
HEY!.. WHAT..?
UHHHH.
TAKE THAT!
PHEW!
THIS TIME, I'M GOING!
COME IN! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
41

EVERYONE TO THE SHIP!
THE GIRL! I AM FINALLY GOING TO SEE HER AGAIN!
ALL THIS BECAUSE OF HIM! AN ARMLESS AND LEGLESS CHILD!
FILTH!
UNNH!
TCHOK
ALEF-THAU!
HE
THERE! HE'S ESCAPING!
HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR ME.
WE COULD SAVE HIM WITH A TRANSFUSION OF VITAL FLUID. IT'S IN THE SHIP!
NER RAMNUS HAS LOCKED HIMSELF IN!
WE CAN'T OPEN IT!
WE NEED THE FLUID!
BOM BOM
COME ON! PUSH!
42

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE...

The Fifth Song

When Terror Triumphs

by Arno and Jodorowsky

QUIET, KIROP!
CRIII
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE NER RAMNUS'S FACE WHEN HE IS SURROUNDED—AND WITHOUT A DROP OF VITAL FLUID, NO LESS.
IT'S TIME YOU RETURN TO AVISPIA. THE CARGO MUST REACH THERE BY MORNING! AND TRY TO AVOID THE WHITE WIZARD! I WILL JOIN YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
43

ALEF-THAU.. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO ENTER!
BUT I MUST!
BOUM BOM
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, HOG?
HMMMM, I THINK I KNOW...
DIAMOND HAS ENTERED THE NERVE CENTER OF THE SPACE-CRAFT.
?!!
COME CLOSER.. DON'T BE AFRAID. YOU ARE SAFE HERE.
BUT ALL OF THESE PEOPLE ARE DEAD.
THEY ARE THIEVES AND INTRUDERS.. BUT LET'S NOT WASTE ANY TIME. I AM DYING FROM LACK OF FLUID. I MUST MAKE THE CONNECTION OR ELSE...
LACK OF VITAL FLUID? BUT THERE'S AN ENTIRE RESERVE! WHAT CONNECTION ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHO ARE YOU?

I AM ONLY A STOPPING PLACE FOR YOU... THERE WILL BE OTHERS. BUT IT IS TIME THAT YOU KNOW CERTAIN TRUTHS.
WHAT TRUTHS?
YOU ARE A TOKEN IN A GREAT GAME. THE GOAL OF THIS GAME IS TO PUT YOU TO THE TEST, AND ACCORDING TO THE RULES...
RULES? GAME?
YOU WANT ME TO BELIEVE THAT ALL OF THIS HAS BEEN JUST A GAME? NER RAMNUS, THE DHARIENS, EVERYTHING?
IT'S ALL BEEN AN ILLUSION.
OOOOH... I FEEL STRANGE!
SOMEONE IS CALLING ME... YES, CALLING ME FOR HELP!
I SEE THEM. THEY ARE BLOCKED BY THE ENTRANCE LOCK! IT MUST BE OPENED!
THIS SHIP, YOU, AND I ARE ONE. KEEP THAT KNOWLEDGE WITH YOU ALWAYS AND HE WILL OBEY YOU.
46

HOWEVER, IN ONE OF THE SHIPS CORRIDORS...
ALL THE FLUID IS GONE. HE HAS TAKEN EVERYTHING. MY MEN HAVE FLED ALSO. SWEET VENGEANCE. DO ME PROUD!
YES, I FEEL EVERY NOOK... EVERY CORRIDOR EVERY DOOR.
AND SUDDENLY...
IT'S A MIRACLE!
THE DOOR IS OPEN!
LET'S GO!
NO!
ALEF-THAU! ONLY HE CAN GO THROUGH!
HUH?
WHAT ABOUT US?
LET HIM GO BY!
IT'S HER VOICE, HOG! IT'S DIAMOND! SHE'S CALLING ME!
TAKE THE LOUROULOU. GO. AND HAVE FAITH!
GO TOWARDS THE LIGHT!
?
46

ARGGH!
WHY, WHY... WE'RE FLOATING!
?
YOU ARE WEIGHTLESS!
DIAMOND!
ALEF-THAU!
YOU'VE SUCCEEDED, ALEF-THAU... AND YOU'VE KEPT YOUR PROMISE!
AND NOW IT'S MY TURN TO KEEP MINE!
YES, BUT FIRST OF ALL, THE LOUROULOU. WE HAVE TO REVIVE HIM!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU FORGET THAT THE ENTIRE RESERVE FLUID HAS BEEN STOLEN. I HAVE JUST ENOUGH LEFT FOR ONE OF YOU. IT'S YOU OR THE LOUROULOU! CHOOSE!
WHAT?
WELL, THEN IT MUST BE THE LOUROULOU FOR HIM IT'S A QUESTION OF LIFE OR DEATH. AS FOR ME, I CAN REMAIN LIKE THIS.
LATER...
YIPPEE! THANKS, ALEF-THAU!
SAVED! YOU HAVE SAVED MY LOUROULOU!
!?
DIAMOND!
ARRH!
?
47

?
DIA-DIAMOND?
HE..HE HAS DIS-APPEARED! WHAT HAPPENED? I'M NOT DEAD, AM I?
YOU CAN SUF-FER, BUT YOU CAN'T DIE. YOU ARE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS WHO ARE PART OF ALL THIS. YOU... YOU EXIST!
I'M IMMORTAL?
HOW IS IT THAT I DON'T EXIST?
AND AS IT TURNS OUT, THERE IS ENOUGH VITAL FLUID FOR THE ARMS AND LEGS OF YOUNG ALEF-THALI.
HOO-RAY!
48

A LITTLE LATER.
FIRST OF ALL, THE LEGS.
READY?
I'M READY, DIAMOND.
BRO
ALEF-THAU! WAKE UP!
49

BUT WHAT IS IT? DIAMOND? DIAMOND?
AOUH..
I MUST FIND HER!
OVER THERE!
DIAMOND!
?
DIAMOND!
50

ALEF-THAU!
THEY ABANDONED US BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T FOUND THE VITAL FLUID! AS FOR THE VOULPS THEY'VE PAID THEIR DEBT!
TWO DAYS LATER...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, ALEF-THAU! A BARRIER OF NEGATIVE ENERGY PREVENTS ME FROM FINDING DIAMOND.
EVEN WITH MY BONES, I AM FINDING IT DIFFICULT...
NO! ALEF-THAU! DON'T SPLIT YOURSELF!
IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!
HIS AURA RISKS BEING DEVOURED!
THE BARRIER OF EVIL ENERGY! I MUST CROSS IT!
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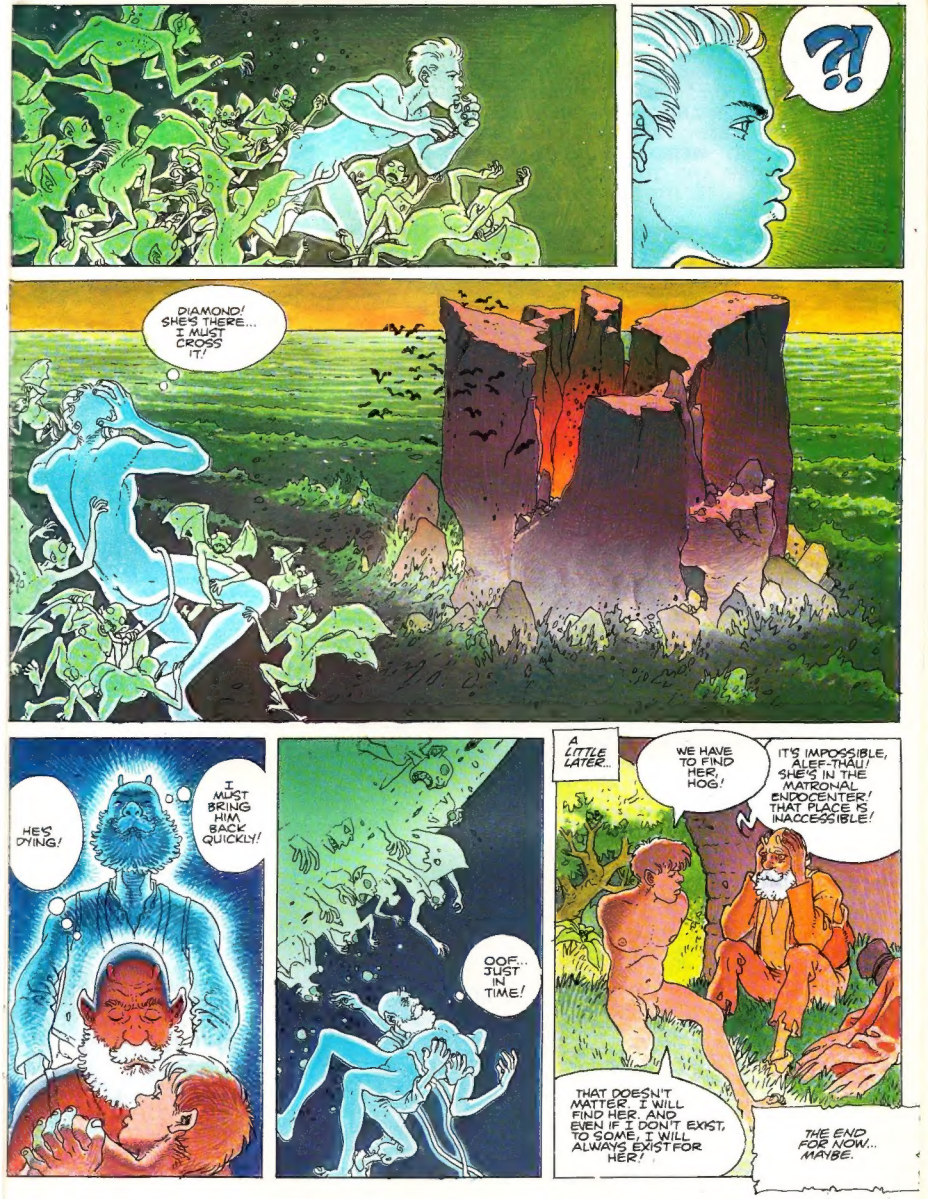
?!
DIAMOND! SHE'S THERE... I MUST CROSS IT!
HE'S DYING!
I MUST BRING HIM BACK QUICKLY!
OOF... JUST IN TIME!
A LITTLE LATER...
WE HAVE TO FIND HER, HOG!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, ALEF-THAU! SHE'S IN THE MATRONAL ENDOCENTER! THAT PLACE IS INACCESSIBLE!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER. I WILL FIND HER. AND EVEN IF I DON'T EXIST, TO SOME, I WILL ALWAYS EXIST FOR HER!
THE END FOR NOW... MAYBE.